

\$75,000 FOR AN ACRE

That is the way Land Sells
Down at Beaumont

SETTLING DUST WITH OIL

No Rain for a Month and it
is Six Inches Deep.

An Electric Railway Through the Oil
Field Will Connect Port Arthur
and Beaumont

Beaumont, Tex., May 3.—Perry McFadden sold three acres of land near the Lucas gusher for \$75,000 an acre last night. This is the only big deal announced, although several others are pending.

Land within several miles of the gusher field is selling for development purposes, which is a healthy indication. The Kelly well, upon which so much depends, will not be in for a week or ten days and the other wells drilling will be later. There are probably seventy derricks near the gusher field with newrigs going up every day.

Beaumont is preparing to become a city. The city has let a contract for the immediate building of a waterworks plant and the laying of thirty miles of water mains. Rails for the street road are on the way and the present electric light plant is to be enlarged. Several fine buildings are to be erected. Port Arthur, too, is having a boom. A franchise has been granted for a street railway, which latter is to be run to Beaumont through the oil region.

Beaumont has not had a rain for a month. Dust lies five to six inches deep. Yesterday the Higgins company furnished sufficient oil to lay the dust on several downtown streets. The sprinkling brought such grateful relief that a move on foot to sprinkle all the streets with oil. Liberal public subscriptions are being made.

FLORIDA'S BAD FIRE

130 Blocks Wholly Destroyed in Jacksonville—Lives Reported Lost

Jacksonville, Fla., May 3.—Jacksonville experienced to-day the most disastrous fire of her existence.

The conflagration, which broke out at 12:45 this afternoon, has covered, as far as is definitely known, a distance of two and a half miles by a half mile wide.

The city buildings went, the fire department building, the armory, the county court house, the clerk's office, containing the county records, the criminal court house, the county jail and the graded schools and the Catholic church and orphanage, St. John's Episcopal church and the convent. All this destruction was wrought in less than four hours.

It is impossible at this hour to ascertain the losses, but it is estimated by insurance agents that it will be between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.

Six lives are reported lost in the conflagration. The mayor has called a meeting of the city council for tomorrow to consider ways and means of relieving the sufferers. Ten thousand people are homeless.

The fire started in the American Fiber Company's plant and was caused by an electric wire getting into the shredding machine.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 4, 1:20 a. m.—The plans of the city, as prepared by the city surveyors, show that 130 blocks were burned and part of another block. The estimates of residences to the block in the residential district is ten, and in the business section the blocks were solid.

The chief of police has ordered all saloons closed until further notice.

IS TAKING IT BRAVELY.

Jacksonville, May 4.—The homeless thousands of fireswept Jacksonville are not crushed by the disaster but are working hard today to restore order from the chaos. All dangerous walls have been torn down, household goods are being hunted in the ruins, temporary relief stations established and hundreds of tents pitched.

TO FEED THE STARVING

Jacksonville, Fla., May 5.—The hunger of 10,000 people was satisfied to-day upon the arrival of relief trains and boats bringing provisions from neighboring towns. Early this morning a commissary was established in the center of the city and thousands were fed during the day.

The relief fund is growing hourly and every mail brings offers of assistance.

Today an order was promulgated under martial law requiring all merchants whose stores were spared by the conflagration to open their doors and sell to all who asked.

To-morrow morning the Times-Union and Citizen will estimate the total property loss at \$11,000,000. These figures are based upon an itemized statement furnished by a volunteer committee of citizens.

Rumors of loss of life are on every hand to-night and the river has been closely watched to-day. Many per-

sons have confirmed the report of loss of life at the Market street wharf. Numerous advertisements appear in the local papers asking for aid in searching for persons who are missing. As many have left the city for the Gulf, it is impossible to ascertain who have been lost in the Market street pier tragedy.

NEW YORK'S RELIEF TRAIN.

New York, May 6.—The Jacksonville relief committee expects to start the first relief train today. Mayor Bowden's telegram to the committee reads as follows: "No human being can conceive our condition. The city is literally wiped from the globe. The wealthiest families are today pauperized. The yellow fever epidemic of 1888 sinks into insignificance compared with the present disaster."

SOONERS ARE THERE

Kiowa Comanche Country Already full
of them—Hills are White with
Tents

Mountain View, Ok., May 1.—Thousands of people are pouring into southwestern Oklahoma and camping in and about the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache and Wichita reservations. Little attention is paid to the order to keep out of the reservation and covered wagons and tents may be seen from every hilltop. If the newcomers continue at the present rate there soon will be enough people on the ground to take every available quarter section.

The work of surveying and allotting is much nearer completion than many suppose, and it will be possible for the government to have the land ready for settlement much sooner than August 6, the last day on which the land may be opened. The law regulating the opening of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache reservation does not require any notice whatever to be given, and the President may simply issue a proclamation declaring that the land is open for settlement. This possibility is causing hundreds to come in every week with the intention of remaining on the ground, ready for any surprise.

The people now on the ground are opposed to the lottery plan and refuse to believe that that plan is to be adopted. It is thought by many of them that the lottery agitation is solely for the purpose of keeping people away and thus preventing a great rush in case the President opens the land without a time notice.

The towns along the border continue to grow. Mountain View is now furnishing employment to an army of carpenters. A \$2,000 Methodist church, nine business houses and more than thirty residences are now under construction. Among the business houses is a new bank building with office rooms on the second floor. Every office room was rented before the foundation was completed.

Many prospectors who come to view the new land about to be turned over to the settlers continue to become victims of sharpers who claim to have special privileges in the reservations. Whether the land is opened by lottery or by a run each person must look out for himself and can obtain no special privileges from anyone. The land not given to the Indians and to the territory for school purposes belongs to the government, and the government has no agents to sell special privileges. Until it is opened, according to the terms of the President's proclamation no person will have any title whatever to any of the land, and consequently nothing to sell. An Eastern concern recently advertised that it had an option on several acres of land in Wichita county and that it would form a colony to settle it. No such option has ever been secured, and it would be impossible to do so. Only a small per cent of the land in Wichita county is deeded, and those who have not yet secured deeds can sell only by relinquishing back to the government and allowing another person to file immediately afterwards. Few persons in the county own more than 100 acres of land, and there are no large tracts for sale at any price. Wichita county lies on the north border of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache reservation. It was settled about eight years ago, and the land is improved and commands a good price. Many farms within ride shot of the Indian land could not be bought for \$10 or \$15 an acre. There are plenty of prizes to be secured in the reservation worth more than that figure the minute they are secured. Anyone who knows anything about the conditions here realizes that there will not be enough for all who seek it.

THREATENED McKINLEY

James White was Kept Behind the
Bars While the President was in
New Orleans.

New Orleans, May 3.—James White a pianist and song writer, made strong threats against President McKinley, saying: "The Horoscopes says that he is to fall into my hands." The police kept him behind the bars during the presidential visit and news of his arrest was not allowed to reach the President.

Chicago Board of Trade Wildly Excited
Again

Chicago, May 3.—Not since the days of "Old Hutch" has there been such excitement in the Board of Trade as this morning. The corn pit was filled with a howling, frenzied mob. Corn King Phillips was master of the situation and refused to sell. May corn immediately reached fifty-eight and a half.

London, May 3.—The war office is more hopeful of a speedy termination of hostilities in South Africa than ever before. It is said that the army contracts based on the expectation that the hostilities would be prolonged are apt to be cancelled.

ARE READY TO FIGHT

The Law Enforcement League Means Business

A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

Effectuated in Topeka Friday
by the Leaders

Will Purify Politics of the State and
Promote the Interests of Temperance

Topeka, May 2.—A permanent organization of the Grand Chapter of the Law Enforcement league of Kansas was effected here last night. The object of the organization is "to purify the politics of the State and promote the interests of temperance." The Law Enforcement league is to be thoroughly organized by the establishment in every city or town or hamlet within the borders of the State of Kansas of a local chapter. It is planned that the effects of the league will be far more reaching than anything ever before attempted in Kansas.

Among the leaders in the grand chapter of the society, which was organized last night, are the Rev. J. M. McFarland, the Rev. R. W. Emerson, Dr. M. R. Mitchell, formerly city physician, and other crusaders. The agents of the society will immediately organize the local lodges in other towns.

The new members will be pledged to active work in the cause of temperance. The applicant for membership will be subjected to a very rigid examination. He will be required to pledge himself to keep the secret of the society and to do active work in the movement for the suppression of vice which the league is soon to start. The applicant for membership must be vouched for by at least three of the old members of the organization before his name will be considered.

The Rev. Mr. McFarland was made the commander-in-chief over all.

BAD GIRLS AT BELOIT

Attempt Murder, Robbery and Arson
at the Industrial School

Beloit, Kansas, May 3.—Three incorrigible girls, Mary Hix, Amanda Wardfield and Corinne Otey, are being held in a dark cell at the state industrial school for girls at this place, charged with laying a plot to take three human lives, to burn the institution, to rob the officers of the cash on hand and then to escape.

All three are tough characters. Some days ago they got together and formulated the plot. They were to go into the office at a certain hour of the day when nobody was there but Mrs. H. A. Hanback, the superintendent, and kill her with a loaded cane. Then they were to call in Mrs. Baker, the matron, on the pretext that the superintendent had fainted, and kill her also. The next move was to set fire to the building and, during the excitement, to rob the safe, killing William Baird, the clerk, if necessary, and then make their escape. The day that the deeds were to have been committed Mrs. Hanback and the matron went to town, leaving the institution in charge some men. Determined still to do their worst, the three girls set fire to the building, robbed the cash drawer of surplus funds on hand and made their escape while the employees of the institution were putting out the blaze.

The girls stuck together and took to the bush. A posse was organized and they were captured about twenty miles from Beloit and brought back. At the time of the capture nothing was known of the murder plot. A fourth girl, who had been solicited to join it, but refused, gave it away. Each of the three girls was then put in the sweat box, and each one confessed to the whole thing.

MAY CORN IS 58 1-2

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ENGLAND IS HOPEFUL

Thinks South African War Will Soon
be Over.

London, May 3.—The war office is more hopeful of a speedy termination of hostilities in South Africa than ever before. It is said that the army contracts based on the expectation that the hostilities would be prolonged are apt to be cancelled.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets.
All druggists refund the money if it
fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature
is on each box. 25c.

MANILA SELF GOVERNING

Civil Form of Administration in
Philippine Capital.

Manila, May 4.—Civil government in Manila was established today as a preliminary to the inauguration of a general civil government. The Philippine commission is unwilling at present to permit the experiment of elections here, although they have been authorized in all other municipalities. Judge Taft says a municipal government for Manila will shortly be created. The officers will probably be appointive. Lepanto and possibly all the other uncivilized provinces will be organized specially on a plan similar to that adopted in the case of Benguet. The board of health has completed the census of Manila. The population numbers 244,732.

OVER A MILE A MINUTE

Union Pacific Fast Mail Makes a Record
Run in Nebraska.

Omaha, Neb., May 4.—A record run through Nebraska was made by the Union Pacific fast mail, which covered the 153 miles between Grand Island and Omaha in 150 minutes. The time was ten minutes under the best previous score. The speed was made possible by perfect weather and the faultless operation of the huge locomotive. The train left Grand Island behind time and took a sixty-mile leap at the outset. West of North Bend the train was covering seventy miles of prairie an hour, and this side of that town reached the eighty-mile mark for some distance. The mail drew into Omaha on time at 5:40 o'clock, having made as rapid a long-distance run as any train ever accomplished in the West.

THE FIRST FLAG

Patriotic Services Where It First
Floated in Kansas.

Topeka, May 6.—The patriotic exercises which will attend the presentation to the state of the historic site where Zebulon Pike first raised the United States flag in 1806, will be held July 4.

The location of this Indian village site, now assumed by the State of Kansas as the exact place where the heroic and inspiring deed of Pike was enacted is in section 3, township 2 south, range 5 west, ten miles from Courtland on the Rock Island, five miles from Republic, on the Missouri Pacific, eight miles from Lovell, on the Santa Fe, and fifteen miles west of Belleville, in Republic county.

HESSIAN FLY AT WORK

Doing Some Damage in
Southwest Kansas

THE WHEAT IS VERY THICK

Will Bear Thinning out and
Still Yield Well

The Acreage is From Five to Ten per
Cent Heavier than it was
Last Year

Salina Kas., May 3.—Farmers south of Salina claim that within the last week the work of the Hessian fly has developed in a large number of wheat fields that were sown early. The last ten days have been the first with out rainfall this spring, and the ground has become dry on top. In some wheat fields the leaves and stalk have turned yellow near the ground, and this is what is looked upon as the work of the fly. Other farmers claim that this is not an indication of the fly and will not seriously interfere with the growth of the wheat.

If the present scare turns out to be unfounded and nothing else interferes, it is pretty certain that the wheat crop this year will be considerably larger than that of last year, which broke all previous records. The acreage in Central Kansas is from 5 to 10 per cent larger than last year while in the northern part of the state it is still larger. The stand is unusually thick and the growth has been exceedingly rank. In fact, it is so thick that George K. Warren, manager of the See-Warren Milling company here, declared a few weeks ago that it would be a blessing if something would happen to thin out the wheat if it could be done evenly.

"When the wheat is as thick as it is at present," said Mr. Warren, "the heads will not be as long nor the grains as plump as if the stand were not so thick. In other words, there would be just as much wheat and it would be of a better quality. The plumper the berry is the more valuable it is for milling purposes."

CRUSHED THEIR SKULLS

Thomas Buckley Falls Headfirst and
Strikes Another Man.

Chicago, May 6.—Thomas Buckley fell headfirst from the second floor of a new building on the head of William Keller today. Both fractured their skulls.

FUNSTON AS SENTINEL

He Let the Privates Sleep
While he Watched

SOLDIERS' GLOWING TRIBUTE

Member of the 34th has
Warm Words of Praise

The General With his Lieutenants,
Among them Lieut. Mitchell, Stood
Sentinel all Night

Hutchinson, May 4.—George Monroe, of Hutchinson, is home from the Philippines, where he served as a private with the Thirty-fourth infantry. He pays a glowing tribute to General Funston and says that the privates who served under Funston rejoice at the recognition shown him. Monroe recounts an experience of his own which shows that Funston had a kindly solicitude for the private.

"In February of 1900," Monroe says, "I was with Company C, of the Thirty-fourth, on a search for a trail across the mountain from the Santos valley. We had been out five days and at the last were on very short rations. One evening a party of twenty of us, including General Funston, became separated from the rest of the company. We had been letting the horses down the side of the mountain by ropes. We were all very tired and half starved. I was feeling so badly at nightfall that I was in dread of being put on guard. Funston was the most cheerful man in the party, and he made me grateful for life that night. He told me and the other sixteen privates to turn in and sleep. There were two lieutenants in our party—Lieutenant Mitchell and Lieutenant Wolf—and General Funston took turn about with those two on guard duty all night, and not a single private was disturbed until morning. There were seventeen privates in that camp next morning that were ready to lay down their lives for that little general. That instance was only one of many that endeared Funston to the men who roughed it with him. Some of the boys didn't like him much at the start, but one trip out with him changed them. And as for nerve—well, he was one solid bunch of it. I have seen him standing in an exposed position when it was fairly blue around him. He paid less attention to bullets than he did to mosquitoes."

Monroe tells of seeing Funston scared once, but it wasn't by bullets. A swarm of ordinary honey bees attacked several of the boys one day and Funston beat a most hasty and undignified retreat. A good healthy bee could chase him off the island, and that seemed to be the only thing he was afraid of. Monroe is enthusiastic in his admiration of General Funston and says there is no possibility of the American people over-estimating him.

KANSAS CLIPS AND COMMENTS.

The Jeff says practically all the kids in Burlington are pigeon-toed.

The sophomore class of K. U. hung in effigy the junior suspected of "peaching" to the faculty with the result that 90 sophomores were suspended for 30 days.

Eldorado is getting so modern and inflated that there is talk of compelling people to quit throwing dead animals in the creek from which the town draws its water.

A Butler county scientist is trying to determine if there is any reason in the custom of addressing cattle as "co-boss, sooky, sooky-boss or co-bossy" when a man wants to talk to them.

An experienced druggist at Cherryvale assures the girls that they may drink a barrel of soda water if they want it, and it won't hurt them. And strangeness might probably bust the boys before it bursts them.

The "hello" girls of Kansas are planning a state meeting this summer, possibly at Beloit. Might it not be more proper to take an excursion—say down to Yellville, Arkansas.

That Chicagoman who declared that he never kissed a girl and who is now 40 is getting considerable attention from the Kansas press. Opinion is divided between his being a liar or a fool.

A pop editor called Henry Allen a "perturbator." Henry consulted the dictionary and found he is something that "caused a disturbance in the regular elliptic or other motion of a heavenly body."

The first thing that struck Lyon county people when they read that Dr. Gattrell had confessed to a murder in Kansas City, was that he was formerly a populist politician in that county.

Barney Sheridan, the stalwart and re-submissionist, has come out squarely against making re-submission the issue in the State campaign. So democracy being tired it might make a campaign on that \$7,000 ball room in the executive mansion which Stanley will not use.

It is told that of late some of the justices in the rural districts have become imbued with the idea that they should instruct the jury when they have one. At a recent hearing before one of these limbs of the law, wound up a long and barren set of instructions with, "You will have to find the prisoner here before you guilty as h— unless he can prove to you that he is innocent beyond a reasonable doubt."

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Weekly California Excursions, personally
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No. 23. Latest night train, Kansas
City, St. Joseph to Denver; night train
for Nebraska, Omaha, St. Paul.

No. 21. Noon train, Kansas City
St. Joseph to Omaha, St. Paul,
through sleepers.

No. 56. Famous Chicago Eli, dining
and buffet library cars, chair cars,
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No. 16. St. Louis Fast Night
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